



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Approves New Transmission Lines and Substation in Central and Northeastern Wisconsin

MADISON - Today, the Public Service Commission (PSC) approved American Transmission Company's (ATC) application to construct approximately 100 miles of new transmission lines in Marathon, Shawano, Oconto, Waupaca and Outagamie counties and a new switching station in Shawano County.

"The record on the two transmission projects we considered today was extensive, with over a thousand pages of technical and public testimony and hundreds of maps" said PSC Chairperson Daniel Ebert. "The record is so specific, it even includes pole placement along the routes."

Chairperson Ebert noted that many of the decision points regarding the project were not contested including the need for the new transmission lines. "There is no dispute about the need for this transmission line which addresses the most constrained portion of ATC's transmission system and will deliver the electricity from the new Weston 4 power plant more efficiently," Chairperson Ebert explained.

In a verbal decision today, the Commission approved ATC's application to build two new 345-kilovolt transmission lines, one new 138-kilovolt transmission line and a switching station at a cost of about \$260 million. The Commission determined the new lines and substation will meet additional transmission needs from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation's new Weston 4 power plant near Wausau. It will also help alleviate a constrained transmission system and improve electric reliability in northeastern Wisconsin.

"Unlike other transmission line projects, there was no disagreement about the need for this line. Without it the new Weston 4 power plant could not operate at full output and the 3000 megawatt import delivery requirement of the Arrowhead Weston line would not be ensured," Commissioner Mark Meyer said.

Following are the key routing decisions the Commission made today:

Gardner Park to Central Wisconsin

The Commission approved ATC's application to build approximately 50 miles of a new 345-kilovolt transmission line to connect the Gardner Park Substation at the Weston power plant to the new Central Wisconsin Switching Station in the Shawano area. The route that the Commission approved largely follows an existing transmission corridor.

Morgan Substation to Werner West

The Commission approved ATC's application to build approximately 50 miles of a new 345-kilovolt transmission line to connect the Morgan Substation near Oconto Falls to the new Central Wisconsin Switching Station and continue to the Werner West Substation in New London. The route that the Commission approved is best described in three segments:

- From the existing Werner West Substation, near New London, to the existing Clintonville Substation, the Commission approved the route following an abandoned railroad corridor, an existing railroad corridor, county roads and some new right-of-way corridors. A secondary component of this segment of the route is a new 18-mile, 138 kilovolt transmission line that will connect the Clintonville substation to the Werner West Substation. Both the 138 kilovolt line and the 345 kilovolt line will be installed on the same transmission poles.
- From Clintonville to the Bonduel area, the Commission approved a route following existing roadways, including STH 22 and STH 29.
- From Bonduel area to the existing Morgan Substation, near Oconto Falls, the Commission approved a route along the existing transmission corridor, with the exception of routing around the Pensaukee River natural area.

Central Wisconsin Switching Substation

The Commission also approved construction of the Central Wisconsin Switching Station. This new substation will be located along STH 22, adjacent to the existing Badger Substation.

The Commission will issue a written order to finalize today's decisions at a later date.

The documents associated with ATC's application can be viewed on our Electronic Regulatory Filing System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Type case numbers 137-CE-122 and 137-CE-123 in the boxes provided on the PSC homepage, or click on Electronic Regulatory Filing System button.

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